

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## AMERICA WILL NOT TOLERATE SLAVE TRADERS, BUSH SAYS

President reaffirms U.S. commitment to fight human trafficking

“America will not tolerate slave traders,” President Bush told the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida, July 16.

Condemning human trafficking as “one of the worst offenses against human dignity,” Bush stressed that the United States is “determined to fight that crime abroad and at home.”

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year, the president said, adding that most are women and girls who end up being forced into the sex industry.

The president cited U.N. estimates that human trafficking is now the third-largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs.

Bush said 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives since his call to action in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly in September 2003, and 32 are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws.

The United States is “confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking,” Bush said. “Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as

the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund)," he added.

Bush said his administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries.

The United States, Bush said, also has launched "an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home."

About 14,500 to 17,500 trafficking victims are smuggled into the United States each year. "The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country," Bush said.

Over the past three years, U.S. officials have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations under way, the president said.

"Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers," he noted. "That's triple the number charged in the previous three years."

The United States also has taken specific steps to help the victims, Bush said, by treating the trafficking victims not as illegal aliens but as refugees. "The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees," the President said.

Other Bush administration initiatives to fight trafficking include providing: \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups who help trafficking victims; \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters for victims; and a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking.

To control the demand side of the equation, Bush signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors and imposes strict new penalties. "We are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent," Bush said.

## U.S. OPPOSES INTERNATIONAL COURT RULING ON ISRAELI WALL

Danforth says ruling "points away" from political solution

The opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Israeli's security fence "points away from a political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," U.S. Ambassador John Danforth said July 16.

"The judicial process is not the political process, and the International Court of Justice was not the appropriate forum to resolve this conflict," Danforth said. "The nature of a political solution is balance. The claims of each side must be accommodated or there can be no agreement."

Addressing an emergency session of the U.N. General Assembly, the ambassador rejected the assembly's resolution on the issue, saying that the court's opinion is "complex" and, in some places "confusing"; therefore, a rush to pass a resolution "just one week after the court's opinion and after only hours of debate denies us the time for reflection that such a critical subject deserves."

The emergency special session on the question of Palestine was requested by a majority of U.N. member states, the Arab Group and the Non-Aligned Movement. It focused on the advisory opinion issued July 9 by the ICJ stating that Israel's building of a barrier in the West Bank is illegal. The majority opinion of the court said that construction must stop immediately and Israel should make reparations for any damage caused to the Palestinians.

The opinion of the World Court, as well as resolutions of the General Assembly, is non-binding. The assembly is scheduled to vote on its resolution July 19.

Danforth, the chief U.S. envoy to the United Nations, said, "the court itself stressed that the only way forward is through a negotiated solution and emphasized the importance of the Roadmap in this respect. The resolution before us points in the opposite direction."

## POWELL DEFINES MEANING OF "FINISHING THE JOB" IN IRAQ

U.S. Secretary of State interview on "Charlie Rose" show

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell says "finishing the job" in Iraq means having elections that produce a representative form of government, building up an Iraqi police force and border patrol, having an army and paramilitary forces that are confident they can handle the remaining security challenges, and giving Iraqis the full responsibility for their own security that would allow U.S.-led coalition forces to go home.

In a wide-ranging interview July 16 on the Public Broadcasting Service's

"Charlie Rose" program that also touched on the situation in Iran, Sudan, the AIDS crisis in Africa, and other trouble spots around the world, Powell said a plan is in place for Iraq to have transitional elections by no later than January 2005, and to have a constitution written and full elections held by the end of that year.

In the interim, Powell said, he was confident "we will be able to put sufficient resources and expertise into the building of the Iraqi armed forces and police forces that they will be better able to take care of their own security." He said the coalition is hoping to have beaten down the anti-government insurgency over the next 18 months.

The secretary said he was confident of an ultimately successful outcome in Iraq for the coalition "as long as we don't lose our will, as long as we are patient, as long as we remain determined, and as long as we continue working with Iraqi leaders who are willing to step forward and to be leaders of this new nation."

Powell said Iraqis don't want an insurgency, and that the 25 million Iraqi people "want to be left alone. They do not want us there. We've done the job; we have gotten rid of an evil dictator. We have gotten rid of a horrible regime that destroyed this country. It wasn't the war that destroyed this country. It was Saddam Hussein. He's gone. There's no longer going to be any question about weapons of mass destruction or terrorism."

On Iran, Powell said he believes that nation's government still harbors a desire to develop a nuclear weapon.

But because of U.S. and international warnings against such a move, he said, whatever timeline the Iranians have for producing a nuclear weapon is a "much longer timeline now, and I hope they (the Iranians) come to the responsible conclusion and the only satisfactory conclusion that 'the game is not worth a candle and we are better off abandoning this program and trying to find a better relationship with the rest of the world.'"

The secretary said the Iranian government would benefit from devoting its resources to other areas.

Pointing out that Iran is a country where upwards of 60 percent of the population is under age 25, he said, "These young people are looking for jobs and a better future to raise families."

"You can't eat a nuclear weapon. You can't eat fissile material. It is not doing anything for you," Powell added.

On the crisis in the western Sudanese province of Darfur, Powell said that the prospect of a humanitarian disaster in that region remains an "open question."

He said humanitarian aid is available in Darfur, but that "we need to do a better job of retailing it out away from stockpiles out to the various camps where people are located and we have to get access to people who are not yet in camps."

Many people in Darfur are ill, said Powell, and may succumb to their illnesses during the region's rainy season.

The biggest problem facing Darfur and the biggest problem facing the international community in that province, he added, is to get the Sudanese government "to do everything possible within their capability or with other capabilities being brought in by the African Union, to break the back" of the Jingaweit militia so it will stop terrorizing villagers.

Powell said the international community will continue to keep pressure on the Sudanese government to fulfill its obligations to the people of Darfur.

"We're not going to let the Sudanese government get away with just promises," he pledged. "We're expecting action (from the government) and we'll be measuring them against the action they take, not the promises they make."

Turning to the issue of HIV/AIDS, Powell said it represents a “terrible threat” of destabilizing Africa and parts of Asia.

Powell said HIV/AIDS is a “destroyer of societies, a destroyer of families, a destroyer of middle-aged people of child-bearing age and from which you get your future leaders and teachers and doctors and everything else. It is a weapon of mass destruction killing 8,000 people a day and it is spreading to other parts of the world. So the international community has to come together” to fight the disease.

Powell outlined steps the Bush administration is taking to confront the HIV/AIDS crisis, pointing out that the United States has given twice as much monetary aid as the rest of the world combined to fight the disease.

He said that success in fighting HIV/AIDS in Botswana, where the problem was particularly acute, suggests that “you can make a difference” in fighting the pandemic in many other countries in Africa and elsewhere around the world.

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#### U.S. AND WORLD CLEARLY ARE SAFER

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Op-ed by National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice

(This column by Condoleezza Rice, who is national security advisor to President Bush, was published in USA Today July 16 and is in the public domain. No republication restrictions.)

U.S. and World Clearly are Safer  
By Condoleezza Rice

Lord Butler’s panel released a report this week on the accuracy of Britain’s intelligence prior to the Iraq war. It is the latest addition to a list of investigations, including those by former U.S. weapons inspector David Kay and the Senate Intelligence Committee.

None disputes that Saddam Hussein had contacts with and ties to terrorists. None disputes that he possessed weapons of mass destruction (WMD), used them against

innocents, desired to resume their production and had capabilities that would have let him do so over time. None disputes his 12-year history of deceit, obstruction of United Nations weapons inspections or material breach of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. And no one disputes his failure to prove he had destroyed his WMD stockpiles as required by U.N. Resolution 1441.

In choosing a course of action in Iraq, President Bush had to consider these facts and answer simple questions: Could the international community continue to accept Saddam’s 12-year defiance of its will, or would the world be safer if the word of the United Nations were seen to count and have consequences? Could the U.S., in the post-9/11 world, continue to hope for the best from Saddam, or would America be safer with his removal? The president and an international coalition concluded that Saddam had to go, and events since his removal have proved this judgment right. Iraq is no longer supporting terrorists, threatening the region or pursuing WMD.

Our efforts in Iraq have been critical to success in the global war on terror. Afghanistan today is an emerging democracy, no longer providing sanctuary to al-Qaeda. Libya’s Moammar Gadhafi has surrendered his nuclear-weapons program. Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan’s secret nuclear-proliferation network, which sold technology and know-how to some of the world’s most dangerous regimes, has been exposed. And the governments of Saudi Arabia and Pakistan are U.S. allies in the fight to root out terrorism. All of these developments have made America and the world safer places.

As democracy gains in Iraq and Afghanistan, we are reminded that no democratic nation in the world threatens America. Saddam’s removal has advanced peace and democracy throughout the broader Middle East. America and the world are clearly safer with this tyrant in the jail cell he has earned.

(Condoleezza Rice is President Bush’s national security adviser.)

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